

## Alexandria Latragna

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**From:** Gary McAulay <gary.mcaulay@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 17, 2021 3:53 PM  
**To:** Bruces Beach Task Force  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] comments on history report

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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Sorry, tried to send comments last week but apparently I had an address typo

Hello History Subcommittee

May I respectfully urge that the history report adhere to a focus on the park and the events surrounding the eminent domain? The addition of full-length biographies, replete with descendants and their bios, is off-track and not, I believe, what the purpose of the history report was intended to be. I understand the desire to flesh out the story but I believe that full biographies and descendant information would be more appropriate in an addendum or appendix to the history report.

Additionally, may I point out that filling out a draft registration card is not military service and does not make one a veteran or begin one's military service. There seems to be some confusion on that point.

P36

*Harvey was born about 1888 in Albuquerque, New Mexico. He moved with his mother and father to Los Angeles. In 1910, Harvey worked as a chauffeur. By 1917 he was also working as a cook on the Salt Lake City Railroad before enlisting in the military on May 29, 1917.*

Harvey was born **12 July 1888** [it's on his draft registration card].  
In 1910 he worked as a chauffeur.  
In 1917 he was working as a cook on the Salt Lake City Railroad  
[Why does the report say, "**also** working" unless he was still also a chauffeur?]

Harvey **registered for the draft** on May 29, 1917.  
He served in the Army for five months, from 2 Aug until 23 Dec, 1918.  
[https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/13404066:2441?tid=&pid=&queryId=57d18358bbf0bd26749dad211addcfa0&\\_phsrc=nyF2312&\\_phstart=successSource](https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/13404066:2441?tid=&pid=&queryId=57d18358bbf0bd26749dad211addcfa0&_phsrc=nyF2312&_phstart=successSource)  
For unknown reasons, he reported as "not" a veteran on the 1930 census.

But the point is that draft registration cards do not mean that men were veterans or that they were enlisted in the service.

I am baffled as to why John Atkinson's draft card is included at all.

John McCaskill's draft registration card does not mean that he was "a veteran who served in World War 1."

And actually, the wording is important. For example, I am a Navy veteran who served **during** the Vietnam War. I did not serve **in** the Vietnam War. I served in the armed forces.

(This is the difference, incidentally, between eligibility for the American Legion versus for the VFW, Veterans of Foreign Wars.)

Likewise, McCaskill's draft registration card does not mean that "at the age of 48 he enlisted to serve in World War 2."

In 1944, McCaskill was still residing on 48<sup>th</sup> Street with the occupation of "presser," according to his voter registration.

<https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/25019168:61066?tid=&pid=&queryId=ce139d3df05ed5d3ba233b79aff879f&phsrc=nyF2430&phstart=successSource>

Some of the records are spotty and hard to find, and I haven't dug too far, but I did not find anything that shows that McCaskill or Atkinson were ever actually in the armed forces, only that they registered for military service, as required.

Thank you for your attention to this email and for all of your hard work.

Best regards,

Gary D. McAulay

## Alexandria Latragna

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**From:** rickbike001 <rickbike001@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 18, 2021 6:37 PM  
**To:** Bruces Beach Task Force  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Question for Bruce's Beach Rediscovered: A Presentation for Black History Month

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
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Hello,

How did the owner Bruce Peck come by getting the land. Wasn't this land originally part of the Sausalito Redondo ranch - who owned the land prior to Bruce Peck. And the same situation happen to these land owners. The thought is shouldn't the land be returned to the decendants of the owneres of the Susalito ranch?

## Alexandria Latragna

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**From:** Kavon Ward <kward1025@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 18, 2021 11:34 AM  
**To:** DACTOR  
**Cc:** Isla Garraway; Bruces Beach Task Force  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Re: Open Letter to the Historical Committee of the Bruce's Beach Task Force

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
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Damnnnnn! You handed them their ASS! They are hopeless. I have no faith in them at all.

Sent from my iPhone

On May 18, 2021, at 10:59 AM, DACTOR <dactor@pacbell.net> wrote:

Greetings Members of the Bruce's Beach Task Force,

As you know, I was present at your meeting last night on the issues regarding the Historical Report and The language for the proposed artwork and Plaque. I also made submissions correcting omissions and misstatements regarding Chaplain Major George Prioleau. While I applaud your effort to get at the truth of events, I am less than pleased at the attitude that everything must be done to appease the City Council. Nothing will appease them, they are institutional racists working to appease the conservative minority of their city. The rest of the public can go to hell as they see it.

What this comes off as and will be seen as so, is that the voice of the victim, the oppressed is not important, that the only thing valid is the account of the perpetrators because there is no evidence, by design, to prove the KKK did anything at all, hence the reason they wore the HOODS.

I have real issues with the makeup of this committee, no Black males, no Family, and no African American community representatives or historians, and that the opinions most heard and considered final, are those of the whites and that you have an employee of the City Council as a watchdog over your every statement, who of course is reporting right back to them.

This is in effect institutional racism at its core where the only account of history is from the colonizer's point of view because he was the only one that could read or write at the time, and the first-hand accounts handed down by the victims by word of mouth, generation after generation is ignored or worse found unsubstantiated, unreliable, again by the perpetrator. Stacks of dead bodies on the plains and reservations, thousands of Dead Blacks hanging from trees and on the sticks of spits and in unmarked graves, and

the racist institutions want to say, these incidents **reportedly** happened. The accounts of **The Bruce Family** as to the incidents must be included in the Plaque because we all know that's what THEY said, and that is **factual**. Leave it out there for the public to believe it or not, we all know the majority does. If you don't, this is going to be looked at as nothing more than a coverup, a whitewashing, of the history of Manhattan Beach so that they can say they are not racists to appease the racist conservative minority. Unfortunately, I'm going to have to get in front of this and take this public. Trying to appease the City Council is not what your task force was created to do.

NO ONE is going to stand and read an entire report on a visit to the beach, if it's in the report then it should be on the plaque or you are dismissing the voices of our ancestors. As you can see, I and Anthony in good faith answered your call for our perspective publically to respectfully take the pressure off of you, and right on time, our input was dismissed as unfactual.

The fair market value of the land at the time has never been revealed to the public, for good reason, a coverup. The Bruce's had three thriving enterprises there and their home which to them would have been priceless to their future. If Kristen wants to say that our people were not coerced by the courts, the city council, and threats of violence by the KKK to give up their property, including the buildings, before going to court in 1927 to seek justice in the settlement, and that they just walked away without a fight and took the money, let her own that lie. Our people were threatened with bodily harm or death if they returned, they were the ones the Whites feared the most because of their enterprising skills, courage, and power of persuasion in the public sphere. They were broke when they were run out in 1927, and didn't receive the pittance of a settlement until 1932. I firmly believe Kristen Long may be the only member of your committee that is being paid, clandestinely.

You all are not meeting again until May 26th and the Council takes it up on June 2nd, and we both know the outcome of that. That Plaque Language that is presented to the public must have that the KKK was involved in terrorist attacks against our family and patrons, and the racist ancestors of the present-day inhabitants of MB were influenced by their White Supremacist retrograde platform to act in concert with them, and nothing less will be acceptable.

Most of what you have done will be thrown out by the Council anyway, even the **factual**. I think that your committee should get on the right side of Justice and report what everybody knows is the truth and let the Council do its racist job in eliminating and skirting the TRUTH!

I do this for FREE and have been for more than thirty years, and Anthony's family for 96 years, and Kavon Ward and her associates for one year, and WE are here for free for the long haul because JUSTICE doesn't have a price tag, only a mission. I don't believe that just because you are working for free, justifies doing less than due diligence in reporting the truth. That in itself releases you from any obligation to APPEASE the Council for any reason.

One last thing, any plaque placed on our property not having the accounts of all parties involved will be taken down when we take ownership and replaced with our own version, you may relay that to the council.

I Have Spoken,

Chief Ousamequin Massasoit Watuspaquin I  
(Duane Yellow Feather Shepard)  
Historian and Spokesman For the Bruce Family.

<Bruce's Plaque HIstory subcommittee Final Revision Submtted by Anthony Bruce and Chief  
Duane Yellow Feather Shepard May 16, 2021.docx>

## PUBLIC COMMENT: ANTHONY BRUCE AND CHIEF DUANE YELLOW FEATHER SHEPARD

Mrs. Willa Ann Bruce (b. 1862, Missouri), and her husband, Charles Aaron Bruce (b. 1860, District of Columbia) were American pioneers. In February 1912, Mrs. Bruce purchased a lot between 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> Streets in the sparsely developed town of Manhattan Beach. She was an entrepreneur and visionary determined to create a destination where racially diverse Americans could enjoy the ocean. It would be called "Bruce's Beach". When the seaside resort opened on June 17, 1912, it was one of the few places where Black beachgoers could access a Beach Bath House and rent bathing suits, in addition to other amenities. By the early 1920s, hundreds, even thousands of Black families visited the resort. The Bruce family expanded on their investment by building additional structures for lodging, a dance hall, a restaurant and purchasing an adjacent lot. Encouraged by the Bruces' success, other families bought property nearby. Following the opening of Bruce's Beach, harassment from the KU KLUX KLAN and white neighbors began. 'FAKE' "No Trespassing" signs were put up on the beach in front of the resort, by landowner George Peck, forcing visitors to walk a half mile to reach the water. As the popularity of the resort soared, the attacks intensified. Spearheaded by George Lindsey, a real estate agent in the North End of Manhattan Beach who said, "White landowners feared an "invasion" by members of the African American community," in 1924, the Manhattan Beach Board of Trustees passed ordinances that prohibited the opening of bath houses and amusement enterprises without Trustee approval on the Strand which threatened the Bruces' livelihood. The ordinances established an eminent domain claim to the land between 26th and 27th Streets, from the Strand to Highland Avenue.

The Bruces did not want to give up their property due to eminent domain, asserting that the proceedings were racially motivated. In a letter to the Manhattan Beach News published February 4, 1927, the Bruce family wrote: "We have always felt....that the attempt to make a park out of these two blocks was a direct slap at us because we were not born white people." Willa Bruce once vowed to the LA Times at the beginning of the venture, "Whenever we have tried to buy land for a beach resort we have been refused. But I own this land and I'm going to keep it." On May 16, 1927, the Bruce family were coerced by the courts to give up their land at less than market value. Amid all of the unjust racial atrocities they were finally forced to abandon their dreams in Manhattan Beach in 1929.

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**From:** DACTOR <dactor@pacbell.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 18, 2021 10:58 AM  
**To:** Isla Garraway  
**Cc:** Bruces Beach Task Force  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Open Letter to the Historical Committee of the Bruce's Beach Task Force  
**Attachments:** Bruce's Plaque Hlstory subcommittee Final Revision Submtted by Anthony Bruce and Chief Duane Yellow Feather Shepard May 16, 2021.docx

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